



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP  
60 STATE STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02109

**COPY MAILED**

**SEP 29 2005**

In re Application of	:	<b>OFFICE OF PETITIONS</b>
Agrawal et al.	:	
Application No. 09/825,489	:	
Filed: April 3, 2001	:	ON PETITION
Attorney Docket No.	:	
047508.514 US2 (HYZ-075)	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed March 16, 2005, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of a prior-filed provisional application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional.

The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant petition does not comply with item (1) above.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on April 3, 2001, within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application, Application No. 60/194,343, which was filed on April 3, 2000, and for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed provisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

However, the amendment is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed application. Petitioner's attention is directed to Dart Industries v. Banner, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980), where the court drew a distinction between a permissible 35 U.S.C. § 120 statement and the impermissible introduction of new matter by way of incorporation by reference in a 35 U.S.C. § 120 statement. The court specifically stated:

Section 120 merely provides a mechanism whereby an application becomes entitled to benefit of the filing date of an earlier application disclosing the same subject matter. Common subject matter must be disclosed, in both applications, either specifically or by an express incorporation-by-reference of prior disclosed subject matter. Nothing in section 120 itself operates to carry forward any disclosure from an earlier application. In re deSeversky, *supra* at 674, 177 USPQ at 146-147. Section 120 contains no magical disclosure-augmenting powers able to pierce new matter barriers. It cannot, therefore, "limit" the absolute and express prohibition against new matter contained in section 251.

In order for the incorporation by reference statement to be effective as a proper safeguard against the omission of a portion of a prior application, the incorporation by reference statement must be included in the specification-as-filed, or in an amendment specifically referred to in an oath or declaration executing the application. See In re deSeversky, *supra*. Note also MPEP 201.06(c).

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a substitute amendment<sup>1</sup> deleting the incorporation by

---

<sup>1</sup> Note 37 CFR 1.121

reference statement, along with a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), is required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:           Mail Stop PETITIONS  
                    Commissioner for Patents  
                    Post Office Box 1450  
                    Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:           Customer Service Window  
                    Mail Stop Petitions  
                    Randolph Building  
                    401 Dulany Street  
                    Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax:            (571) 273-8300  
                    ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Attorney Derek L. Woods at (571) 272-3232.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks  
Lead Paralegal  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy